REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION (N. S.)

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31,

1972

QUEEN'S PRINTER
HALIFAX, N. S.

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TO HIS HONOUR

The Honourable Victor deB. Oland, E.D.,

Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report of the Emergency Measures Organization (Nova Scotia) for the fiscal year ended 31st March, A.D. 1972.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ALLAN E. SULLIVAN,

Minister Responsible for Emergency Measures Organization (N.S.)

Halifax, Nova Scotia.

101-05131/

REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION

(NOVA SCOTIA)

For the Year Ended 31st March 1972

GENERAL

1. This report is for the Fiscal year 1971-72 only. Previous Annual Reports provided details and statistics of the development of this branch to this period.

2. It is important to appreciate that the Emergency Measures Organization of Nova Scotia is a branch of the Government of Nova Scotia, and not a separate, distinct organization per se. This branch performs a normal function of government, and is designed primarily to plan for the co-ordination of, and use in major peacetime disasters and national emergencies, of the resources of equipment and manpower of the various departments and agencies of the government.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Order in Council No. 71 – 99 dated 2nd February 1971, wherein the administration of the Emergency Measures Act is assigned to the Member of the Executive Council who from time to time holds the office of Minister of Lands and Forests, and the person who from time to time holds the office of Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests is the Deputy Minister for the purpose of the Emergency Measures Act, have both been revoked. The Minister is now named, and the incumbant is the Honourable Allan E. Sullivan, and the Deputy Minister is Dr. F.R. MacKinnon.

4. A new order in Council, No. 71 – 764, dated 10th August 1971, details the responsibilities of the various departments and agencies of the Government with regard to civil emergency planning.

OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives and the responsibilities of the Emergency Measures Organization of Nova Scotia are to:

a. To develop, in conjunction with Canada Emergency Measures Organization, civil plans and preparations designed to ensure the ability of the nation and the Province to survive and recover from any war emergency, and

b. To develop in conjunction with the municipal governments, plans and preparations to deal effectively with any type of peacetime emergency, thus minimizing death, injury and loss of property.

LEGISLATION

6. The Emergency Measures Organization of Nova Scotia continued to operate under the authority of the EMO (NS) Act, Chap. 87 RS of Nova Scotia 1967, and Regulations promulgated under authority of the Act:

a. Regulations Regarding Fire Protection (the Nova Scotia Emergency Fire Service) dated 27th August 1968;

b. Regulations Regarding the Nova Scotia Emergency Police Service, dated 18th April 1969;

c. Regulations Regarding the Emergency Welfare Service, dated 13th January 1970;

d. Regulations Regarding the Emergency Health Service, dated 30th June 1970.

ORGANIZATION

7. Staff

A change in the operations staff took place during the year – Mr. J.S.G. Pratt, the Controller for Western Zone, retired and was replaced by Mr. Thomas L. Allen.

8. **Zones.** The Province continues to be divided into three zones for the purpose of administration and emergency operations. In a national emergency, each Zone Headquarters would function as the centre of government for the zone under the central control of the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters.

9. The Zones are as follows:

a. **Western Zone** – West Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Queens and Lunenburg Counties, with headquarters in the Post Office Building, Kentville.

b. **Central Zone** – East Hants, Halifax, Guysborough, Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland Counties, with headquarters in the Post Office Building, Truro.

c. **Cape Breton Zone** – The whole of Cape Breton, with headquarters in the Federal Building, Sydney.

10. In each of these Zones is a Zone Controller, a full-time member of the staff of EMO (NS), and included in his responsibilities is that of guidance and assistance to each of the municipal governments in his Zone, in the development of their civil emergency plans and to co-ordinate their plans with provincial plans for emergency government.

OPERATIONS

11. In June, 1971, the members of the Ambulance Operators Association of Nova Scotia withdrew their services and the Government of Nova Scotia immediately directed that an emergency ambulance service be organized and directed by the Emergency Measures Branch, in order that essential ambulance services would continue to be available in the Province.

12. The emergency ambulance service operated from 21st June to 17th July, 1971, inclusive. A total of 32 vehicles modified to operate as ambulances were used, and a total of 564 patients were carried.

13. Hurricane "Beth" in August caused extensive flooding of farm lands, breached a dam at Falmouth, and also in Dartmouth where extensive damage resulted within the city. This Branch arranged for, and co-ordinated the assistance which was so ablely provided by DND through Maritime Command, which included personnel, sandbags, heavy pumps and a heavy recovery vehicle.

14. In Antigonish, where flooding forced the evacuation of trailer camps, motels and camping areas, and also closed the main roads leading into the town, the Antigonish Emergency Measures Organization opened a very well operated welfare centre where some 600 distressed people were processed, i.e. registered, housed and fed, within a 24 hour period.

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

15. Of the sixty-five (65) municipalities in Nova Scotia, including the cities of Halifax, Dartmouth and Sydney, fifty-six (56) were participating in the civil emergency planning program, at the end of 1971. The staff of this Branch will continue to assist the remaining municipalities to commit themselves to this program.

16. Our policy of working more closely with local governments has resulted in a far greater awareness of the aims of EMO (NS), and of the acceptance of our help and guidance in the field of civil emergency planning.

PLANNING

17. The planning for Road Transport Control progresses well, with full acceptance and cooperation from the many facets of the industry, the leaders and association of which have been most helpful, and who have in many instances accepted positions of responsibility in the shadow organization.

18. The Emergency Welfare plan has been completed down to the unit level. During the current year, 1972-73, training and exercises will be carried out to make the plan effective.

19, Organizing and planning will be carried on at the municipal level, where local emergency welfare planning is essential in

preparation of any contingency which might arise affecting the welfare of the local population.

20. The Provincial National Emergency Plan and Civil Emergency Plan is being brought up to date, but can not be completed until a new Civil Emergency Planning Order is issued by the Federal Government, which is preparing an amendment to PC 1965–1041, commensurate with recent government changes in policy and departmental responsibilities.

LIAISON

21. The Emergency Measures Branch continues to enjoy excellent working relationships with the other departments of the Government, all of which are particularly helpful when called upon for assistance or advice.

22. This close relationship includes the Regional Director, Nova Scotia, for Canada Emergency Measures Organization, the Canadian Forces (Maritime Command), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

ZONE EMERGENCY HEADQUARTERS (ZEGHQ)

23. The Sydney Office of the Cape Breton Zone Controller EMO (NS), has now moved from the Provincial Building, to the basement of the Federal Post Office Building in Sydney.

24. This new office provides adequate space for an operational headquarters in the event of major disaster, ample storage space for emergency equipment and stores, and a conference room for meetings and training.

TRAINING

25. The Director and various senior members of his staff attended a number of courses, seminars and working groups held at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior, Ontario, during the course of the year.

26. In addition, a total of 78 candidates from Nova Scotia

attended conferences and courses at Arnprior, including:

a. National Conference Mayors & Wardens 4
b. Emergency Health Planning 18
c. Emergency Welfare Planning 11
d. Annual National Conference of EMO Directors 4

27. The provincial staff conducted a number of courses with regard to various facets of civil emergency planning for volunteer civilian workers who form part of local government emergency organizations, and which were attended by some 177 volunteers.

28. These courses included such specialties as emergency health, emergency welfare, auxiliary police and radiation monitoring.

CONFERENCES

29. The National Director, Canada Emergency Measures Organization, called a Conference of the Provincial Directors, which was held at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior, Ontario, in March, 1972. This conference was attended by Mr. C.F. Kennedy, Director EMO (NS), Mr. Raefe Douthwaite, Assistant Director EMO (NS) and Mr. J.A. Gray, the Planning Officer.

30. The main emphasis of discussion centered around civil emergency planning, and the types of resources which are always available at the provincial and municipal government level. The need for planning and the need for readiness to be able quickly to cope with peacetime disaster was gone into in depth, together with the obvious benefits resulting from mutual aid and cooperation at the local government level.

31. The Director, EMO (NS) called a number of conferences, which included:

a. Conference of Departmental Planning officers.

b. A meeting of the Provincial Disaster Committee

c. Conference of the Road Transport Controllers Committee

d. A conference of the Municipal Emergency Planning Officers, many of whom are municipal and town clerks.

32. These four conferences were all held in the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters at Debert, with the cooperation of Canada EMO and of the Deputy Chief of Staff (Regional Plans), Maritime Command, and without the cooperation and assistance from whom the conferences would not have been the success they were.

EXERCISES

33. A very successful disaster exercise was held in Amherst, Nova Scotia, with the enthusiastic support of the Mayor and Council. The theme of the exercise was a train-bus accident at a level crossing which resulted in multiple casualties, thus involving the hospital disaster plan, together with supporting services of the fire department, the police, first aiders, rescuers, welfare, etc. It was a good exercise which involved the public, and from which a number of useful lessons were learned, and good press coverage obtained.

COMMUNICATIONS

34. A radio communications link exists between the Halifax office of the Emergency Measures Branch, and the branch offices in Truro and Kentville. Because of distance and a lack of proper facilities, the radio link between Halifax and the Sydney office is less effective.

35. The EMO (NS) van has been modified for use as a mobile communications centre for use as required, at the scene of any large scale disaster which might occur. It is equiped to tie-in with the Department of Lands and Forests network, and also with that of the Department of Highways. In addition, it can also tie-in with the amateur radio operators and citizens' band.

EMO STUDIES

36. **Development of New Courses of Training** – Two studies were held at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior, on

26 – 30 April and 25 – 29 October, 1971, respectively, which were both attended by senior members of the EMO (NS) staff. The aim of these two studies was to consider new courses in Disaster Preparedness Education.

37. **Program Planning and Budgeting** – A study was held 10 – 14 May 1971, at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior to consider the relationship of budgeting to planning, and to develop new reporting procedures for the Civil Emergency Measures Program. This study was attended by the Assistant Director.

FINANCIAL

38. The Province again received a refund from Canada Emergency Measures Organization amounting to 75 per cent of an approved Project for civil emergency planning, in accordance with the Federal-Provincial Financial Assistance Program.

39. The sum of $250.00 was given to each municipality undertaking positive civil emergency planning, to cover incidental expenses which might be incurred to this end by the municipal Emergency Planning Officer. Fifty-six municipalities were included in this disbursement.

40. The amounts expended and recovered as compared to the fiscal year 1970-71 are shown as follows:

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA	1970-71	1971-72
Expended by EMO (NS)	$148,191.07	$184,927.90
Recovered from Gov't of Canada . .	$112,000.00	$132,665.54

41. The Province with the financial assistance through FAP completed the hose coupling standardization Program in Pictou County and part of Cumberland to the cost of $12,000.00

Next year should see the completion of mainland Nova Scotia.

CONCLUSION

42. Provincial and municipal plans continue to be improved. In

most municipalities in Nova Scotia these plans nave now reached the stage where it would be possible for them to be implemented quickly in the event of need.

43. If each individual will just insist that his community prepare and maintain a simple, effective emergency plan, together with a knowledge of local resources and volunteer workers trained to assist their local administration, their neighbors and themselves, that individual will have done much to assure his own welfare and that of his community.